

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application. Claims 1-4, 9, 11-14, 19-20, 22, 25, 28, 30, 32-33, 35, and 41 have been amended. New claims 47-55 have been added.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing venture capital ("VC") investments in a plurality of industries, comprising:

allocating a plurality of portions of the display device to correspond to a plurality of separate industries;

allocating a sub-portion of each portion to a sub-industry of the industry to which that portion corresponds; and

within the sub-portion, displaying a venture capital shape for each VC portfolio company in that sub-industry, wherein the venture capital shapes are arranged in a spiral, including determining the spatial relationship among the venture capital shapes in the spiral based on a particular characteristic associated with the VC portfolio companies, the size of each sub-portion being determined by the number of VC portfolio companies in the corresponding sub-industry.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

~~the step of allocating a sub-portion of each portion includes~~ allocating a plurality of sub-portions for each portion, each sub-portion allocated to a separate sub-industry of the industry allocated to that portion, and displaying an industry shape for each industry and a sub-industry shape for each sub-industry.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

~~the step of allocating the plurality of sub-portions includes~~ arranging the sub-portions according to a characteristic of the sub-industries to which the sub-portions are allocated.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein:

the particular characteristic, is a first particular characteristic; ~~and~~

~~the shape displaying step includes displaying each~~ venture capital shape is displayed with an indication of a second particular characteristic;

each industry shape is displayed with an indication of an industry particular characteristic; and

each sub-industry shape is displayed with an indication of a sub-industry particular characteristic.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein:
the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since the VC portfolio company was seeded; and the second particular characteristic is total VC investment for that company as of a particular time.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising:
changing the particular time; and modifying the display to account for the second particular characteristic as of the changed particular time.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising:
changing the particular time based on input from a user.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, further comprising:
displaying a user interface element indicating the particular time; and
receiving the changed particular time from a user via the user interface element.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 4, wherein the indication with which each venture capital, industry, and sub-industry shape is displayed ~~in the shape displaying step~~ includes color.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein:
the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since a particular event occurred with respect to the VC portfolio company;
and the second particular characteristic is as of a particular time.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing objects in a plurality of categories, comprising:

allocating a plurality of portions of the display device to correspond to a plurality of separate categories;

allocating a sub-portion of each portion to a sub-category of the category to which that portion corresponds; and

within the sub-portion, displaying a an object shape for each object in that sub-category, wherein the object shapes are arranged in a spiral, including determining the spatial relationship among the object shapes in the spiral based on a particular characteristic associated with the objects, the size of each sub-portion being determined by the number of objects in the corresponding sub-category.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:
~~the step of allocating a sub-portion of each portion includes allocating a plurality of sub-portions for each portion,~~ each sub-portion allocated to a separate sub-category of the category to which that portion is allocated, and displaying a category shape for each category and a sub-category shape for each sub-category.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:
~~the step of allocating the plurality of sub-portions includes~~ arranging the sub-portions according to a characteristic of the sub-categories to which the sub-portions are allocated.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~11~~ 12, wherein:
the particular characteristic is a first particular characteristic; ~~and~~
~~the shape displaying step includes displaying each object shape is displayed~~ with an indication of a second particular characteristic;
each category shape is displayed with an indication of a category particular characteristic;
and
each sub-category shape is displayed with an indication of a sub-category particular characteristic.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein:
the first particular characteristic is an amount of time since a particular event occurred with respect to the object; and
the second particular characteristic is as of a particular time.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, further comprising:
changing the particular time; and
modifying the display to account for the second particular characteristic as of the changed particular time.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, further comprising:
changing the particular time based on input from a user.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, further comprising:
displaying a user interface element indicating the particular time;
and receiving the changed particular time from a user via the user interface element.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein the indication with which each category, sub-category, and object shape is displayed ~~in the shape displaying step~~ includes color.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing at least one venture capital firm ("VC"), comprising:

- a) generating a line to represent at least one VC firm and allocating a plurality of linear portions of the display along that line to correspond to a plurality of separate time segments;
- b) at each of the plurality of linear portions, ~~displaying along~~ altering the size of the linear portion to provide an indication of a value of a characteristic of the at least one VC firm for the time segment to which that linear portion corresponds.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20, wherein:

the characteristic includes a return on investment measurement for the VC firm.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim 20, wherein:

~~the step of displaying an indication of a value of a characteristic of the venture capital firm includes displaying a rectangle having a length along the linear portion~~ is rectangular in shape based on the value of the characteristic.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein:

the characteristic includes return on investment.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 22, wherein:

the characteristic is a first characteristic;

the method further comprises displaying the rectangle with a color based on a second characteristic of the venture capital firm.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of claim 20, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

~~the step of displaying an indication of a value of a characteristic of the corresponding venture capital investments includes~~ displaying a shape having a color based on the value of the characteristic.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein:

the plurality of linear portions are first linear portions, and the at least one venture capital investment firm is a first venture capital firm; and

the method further comprises

allocating a plurality of second linear portions of the display to correspond to the plurality of time segments; and

at each of the plurality of second linear portions, displaying along the second linear portion an indication of a value of the first characteristic of at least one second venture capital firm in the time segment to which that second linear portion corresponds.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the first linear portion corresponding to a particular one of the time segments is adjacent to the second linear portion corresponding to the particular one of the time segments.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing at least one object, comprising:

- a) generating a line to represent at least one object and allocating a plurality of linear portions of the display along that line to correspond to a plurality of separate ranges of a first characteristic;
- b) at each of the plurality of linear portions, displaying along the linear portion an indication of a value of a second characteristic of the at least one object for the range, of the first characteristic, to which that linear portion corresponds.

Claim 29 (original): The method of claim 28, wherein:
the first characteristic includes time.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The method of claim 28, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:
~~the step of displaying an indication of a value of the second characteristic of the object~~
~~includes~~ displaying a rectangle having a length along the linear portion based on the value of the second characteristic.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 30, further comprising:
displaying the rectangle having a color based on the value of a third characteristic of the object.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~27~~ 28, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:
~~the step of displaying an indication of a value of the second characteristic of the~~
~~corresponding object includes~~ displaying a shape having a color based on the value of the second characteristic.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~27~~ 28, wherein:
the plurality of linear portions are first linear portions, and the at least one object is a first object; and
the method further comprises
allocating a plurality of second linear portions of the display to correspond to the plurality of separate ranges of the first characteristic; and
at each of the plurality of second linear portions, displaying an indication of a value of the second characteristic of at least one second object in the range of the first characteristic to which that second linear portion corresponds.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the first linear portion corresponding to a particular one of the time segments is adjacent to the second linear portion corresponding to the particular one of the time segments.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing venture capital investments, comprising:

generating a plurality of first shapes on the display, wherein each first shape indicates a number of associated venture capital firms having a value of a first particular characteristic within a range of values that correspond to that first shape;

within each first shape, generating a second shape for at least some of the venture capital firms associated with that first shape, wherein each second shape indicates a value of a second particular characteristic of that venture capital firm, and either the first or second shape, or both, indicates a value of another particular characteristic.

Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein:

the first shapes are rectangles; and

the second shapes are rectangles.

Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein:

the first shapes are rectangles; and each first shape indicates the number of associated venture capital firms by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein:
the second shapes are rectangles; and
each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein:
each first shape indicates the number of associated venture capital firms by the length of the rectangle that is that first shape;
each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of the rectangle that is that second shape; and
the lengths of the rectangles that are the second shapes are perpendicular to the lengths of the rectangles that are the first shapes.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein:
the second shape indicates a third particular characteristic of that venture capital firm by the color of the second shape.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A method to generate a display, on a display device, representing objects, comprising:
generating a plurality of first shapes on the display, wherein each first shape indicates a number of associated objects having a value of a first particular characteristic within a range of values that correspond to that first shape;
within each first shape, generating a second shape for at least some of the objects associated with that first shape, wherein each second shape indicates a value of a second particular characteristic of that object, and either the first or second shape, or both, indicates a value of another particular characteristic.

Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 41, wherein:
the first shapes are rectangles; and
the second shapes are rectangles.

Claim 43 (original): The method of claim 41, wherein:
the first shapes are rectangles; and
each first shape indicates the number of associated objects by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 44 (original): The method of claim 43, wherein:
the second shapes are rectangles; and
each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of that rectangle.

Claim 45 (original): The method of claim 41, wherein:
each first shape indicates the number of associated objects by the length of the rectangle that is that first shape;
each second shape indicates the value of the second particular characteristic by the length of the rectangle that is that second shape; and
the lengths of the rectangles that are the second shapes are perpendicular to the lengths of the rectangles that are the first shapes.

Claim 46 (original): The method of claim 45, wherein:
the second shape indicates a third particular characteristic of that object by the color of the second shape.

Claim 47 (new): A method of tracking investment money comprising:
receiving information regarding the flow of venture capital into of a number of startup companies;
identifying each startup company as corresponding to a sub-industry;
identifying each sub-industry as corresponding to an industry;
generating a startup icon representing each startup company;
generating a sub-industry icon representing each sub-industry, each sub-industry icon contains the startup icon of each corresponding startup company;
generating an industry icon representing each industry, the color of each industry icon correlates to the total investment in the industry; and

displaying a plurality of industry icons and each corresponding sub-industry icon, wherein at least one of the sub-industry icons is superimposed upon the corresponding industry icon.

Claim 48 (new): The method of claim 47, comprising identifying a first mover advantage.

Claim 49 (new): The method of claim 47, comprising displaying information regarding each startup company simultaneously with financial figures regarding both the corresponding industry and sub-industry.

Claim 50 (new): The method of claim 49, wherein the size of each sub-industry icon correlates to the number of corresponding startup companies.

Claim 51 (new): The method of claim 50, wherein the color of a portion of each sub-industry icon represents the total investment in that sub-industry.

Claim 52 (new): The method of claim 51, wherein the location of each sub-industry with respect to the corresponding industry icon indicates a real world business relationship between the sub-industry and the corresponding industry.

Claim 53 (new): The method of claim 47, wherein the size of each industry icon correlates to the number of corresponding sub-industries.

Claim 54 (new): The method of claim 47, wherein the startup icons within each sub-industry icon indicate a first characteristic of the corresponding startup company by color and the position of each startup icon within the corresponding sub-industry icon is fixed over time.

Claim 55 (new): The method of claim 47, wherein at least one of the sub-industry icons is not superimposed upon the corresponding industry icon.